

# **Press Releases: Macedonia Parliament Decision on Prespa Agreement**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
October 20, 2018

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The United States welcomes the decision by Macedonia's Parliament to initiate the constitutional changes needed to implement the Prespa Agreement with Greece. The United States believes that the Prespa Agreement is a historic opportunity to advance stability, security, and prosperity throughout the region.

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# **Press Releases: Mexico and UNHCR Plan To Stand Up Migrant Processing Center**

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
October 18, 2018

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We welcome the Government of Mexico's statement that they will seek cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address immigration issues in the region, including the influx of people arriving in Mexico.

The United States stands ready to assist the Government of Mexico and UNHCR in this effort.

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## **[Press Releases: Sixteenth Session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission Under the New START Treaty](#)**

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
October 18, 2018

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The Sixteenth Session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission under the U.S.–Russia New START Treaty was held in Geneva from October 10–18, 2018.

The U.S. and Russian delegations continued the discussion of practical issues related to the implementation of the Treaty.

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## **Press Releases: Decision by Staffan De Mistura To Finish His Tenure as UN Special Envoy for Syria**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
October 18, 2018

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In his four years and four months as UN Special Envoy for Syria , Staffan de Mistura has worked tirelessly to find a solution to the Syrian crisis, saved lives by working to deescalate the violence that has engulfed the country, and eased suffering by constantly pressing for unhindered delivery of vital medical and humanitarian aid to Syrians in need.

Special Envoy De Mistura has also eloquently stated that there is no military solution in Syria, and that the only way forward is a political process under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 2254. He has offered a vision of a Syria that is free from violence and oppression and a Syrian government that represents the will of the Syrian people. His leadership in pursuit of these goals has been instrumental in building international consensus for a political pathway out of this terrible conflict.

Now, as Special Envoy De Mistura enters the final weeks of his tenure, he and UN Secretary General Guterres have pledged that he will use all his influence and energy to finally convene the Syrian constitutional committee – an important step forward in the political process and a symbol that a solution is possible.

The United States will continue to support the Special Envoy's work until he steps down at the end of November. We sincerely thank him for his service to

the community of nations and for his tireless work on behalf of the Syrian people and countless others during his UN career. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

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## [Press Releases: Rewards for Justice – Reward Offer for Information on Al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula \(AQAP\) Key Leaders](#)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
October 18, 2018

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The U.S. Department of State’s Rewards for Justice Program is offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the identification or location of Al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) senior regional leader Khalid Saeed al-Batarfi, and is increasing from \$5 million to up to \$10 million its reward for information leading to the identification, location, arrest, and or conviction of the leader of AQAP Qasim al-Rimi.

**Qasim al-Rimi** was named emir of AQAP in June 2015. The following month, he swore allegiance to al-Qa’ida leader Ayman al-Zawairi and called for renewed attacks against the United States. Born in Yemen in 1978, he trained terrorists at an al-Qa’ida camp in Afghanistan in the 1990s. Al-Rimi subsequently returned to Yemen and became an AQAP military commander. He was sentenced to five years in prison in 2005 after being convicted in Yemen of plotting to assassinate the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, and escaped from a

Yemeni prison in 2006. Al-Rimi is linked to the September 2008 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a that left 10 Yemeni guards, four civilians, and six terrorists dead, and the December 2009 attempted suicide bombing by "underwear bomber" Umar Farouq Abdulmutallab aboard a U.S.-bound airliner. The government of Saudi Arabia placed al-Rimi on its list of most wanted terrorist suspects on February 3, 2009. In May 2010, the Department of State designated al-Rimi as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. The designation blocks al-Rimi's property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction and generally prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in transactions with him. In May 2010, al-Rimi was added to the United Nations (UN) 1267 Sanctions Committee's Consolidated List of individuals associated with al-Qa'ida/ISIL.

In a May 7, 2017 video, he urged supporters living in Western countries to conduct "easy and simple" attacks and praised Omar Mateen, who killed 49 people in a June 2016 mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando Florida.

**Khalid al-Batarfi** is a senior member of AQAP in Yemen's Hadramaut Governorate and a former member of AQAP's shura council. Born in Saudi Arabia, in 1999 he traveled to Afghanistan, where he trained at al-Qa'ida's al-Farouq camp. In 2001, he fought alongside the Taliban against U.S. forces and the Northern Alliance. In 2010, al-Batarfi joined AQAP in Yemen, led AQAP fighters in taking over Yemen's Abyan Province, and was named AQAP's emir of Abyan. Following the death of AQAP leader Nasir Al-Wuhayshi in a June 2016 U.S. military strike, he issued a statement warning that al-Qa'ida would destroy the U.S. economy and attack other U.S. interests. After the United States announced that it would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, al-Batarfi appeared in an AQAP video in January 2018 threatening the United States and Jews. On January 23, 2018, the U.S. Department of State designated al-Batarfi as an SDGT under E.O. 13224.

More information about these reward offers is located on the Rewards for Justice website at [www.rewardsforjustice.net](http://www.rewardsforjustice.net). We encourage anyone with information on these individuals to contact the Rewards for Justice office via the website, e-mail ([info@rewardsforjustice.net](mailto:info@rewardsforjustice.net)), phone (1-800-877-3927 in North America), or mail (Rewards for Justice, Washington, D.C., 20520-0303, USA). Individuals may also contact the Regional Security Officer at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

The Rewards for Justice program is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service. Since its inception in 1984, the program has paid in excess of \$145 million to more than 90 people who provided actionable information that helped bring terrorists to justice or prevented acts of international terrorism worldwide. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Rewards4Justice>.

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